

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL
REPORT
OF THE
SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE
EAST BARNET VALLEY
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT,
FOR THE YEAR 1896,

BY
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Medical Officer of Health.

1897.

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REPORT.



THE Area of the District is 2,636 acres :

East Barnet	-	-	-	1,699 acres.
Barnet Vale	-	-	-	268 „
Monken Hadley	-	-	-	660 „
South Mimms	-	-	-	9 „

The population may be estimated at 9,600.

During the year 113 deaths were registered, as against 124 during the previous year.

Twenty-five deaths occurred in children under one year.

Thirty-three deaths occurred at the age of 65 or over, being about the same as last year.

Two deaths were due to accidental injuries.

Calculating the population at 9,600, the death-rate is 11·7 per 1,000 for the year, which shows that the District has well maintained its reputation for being considered a healthy one.

Nineteen deaths were registered under the seven chief Zymotic diseases : Small Pox 0, Measles 5, Scarlet Fever 0, Diphtheria 3, Whooping Cough 2, Fever (continued, including Influenza) 4, Diarrhoea and Dysentery 5.

The Zymotic death-rate was 1·98.

All the deaths were certified in the usual way except one—a case of sudden death which was certified by the coroner, he not deeming an inquest necessary.

The deaths of infants under one year of age were in the proportion of 114 per 1,000 births.

During the year 219 births were registered, 102 boys, 117 girls, giving a birth-rate of 22·8 per 1,000.

The following table will be found useful in comparing the vital statistics during the last fifteen years :

Year.	Population	Birth rate.	Death rate.	*Infantile mortality.	Zymotic death rate.
1881	5,788	34·2	11·5	7·5	1·4
1882	5,808	31·1	14·9	11	3·2
1883	6,054	31·3	11·5	10·5	1
1884	6,176	31·7	13·4	12·2	1·4
1885	6,298	26·5	12·8	11·9	0·3
1886	6,420	28·5	12·7	9·2	0·7
1887	6,542	26·4	13·2	9·8	1·8
1888	6,664	28·0	11·5	8·5	1·5
1889	6,786	27·5	11	9	0·29
1890	7,590	25	12	9·5	2·7
1891	7,750	25	12	7	2·4
1892	8,300	27	11·7	6·2	1·08
1893	8,500	23·8	10	6·4	1·06
1894	8,700	22·6	9·5	10·4	1·29
1895	9,350	23·5	13·1	16·4	2·2
1896	9,600	22·8	11·7	11·4	1·98

* Infantile Mortality = ratio of deaths under one year to 100 births.

During the year 156 cases of infectious diseases were notified :--

Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	124
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	20
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	3
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	7
Membranous Croup			-	-	-	1
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1
						<hr/> 156

The number of Scarlet Fever cases greatly exceeds that of any other year.

The disease was constantly in evidence all the year through, though in the first half there were but few cases :

January	-	-	-	-	-	9
February	-	-	-	-	-	3
March	-	-	-	-	-	5
April	-	-	-	-	-	4
May	-	-	-	-	-	7
June	-	-	-	-	-	1
July	-	-	-	-	-	16
August	-	-	-	-	-	12
September	-	-	-	-	-	29
October	-	-	-	-	-	20
November	-	-	-	-	-	14
December	-	-	-	-	-	4

For the most part the cases of Fever were confined to children attending the Board Schools in the Albert and

Margaret Roads, and the National Schools at East Barnet. Only two or three cases occurred amongst the children at the Potters Road Schools. During the month of August the Schools were closed for the usual summer holidays, but twelve fresh cases were notified.

On re-opening, the number rose to twenty-nine in September, and twenty in October, doubtless owing to the number of children congregating at School, but in December the disease had practically disappeared.

The type of the disease was very mild, so much so that many cases were not recognised, and the children suffering from the mild affection were allowed to attend school and distribute the disease to others. The mildness of the disease doubtless largely contributed to the persistence with which it continued to prevail, since parents in many cases thought the children were only suffering from a "cold."

Although the number of cases was more than double the average during the months of September and October, I did not deem it necessary to advise the Council to close the Schools, but trusted to obtaining the co-operation of the School Authorities in tracing out absentees, and in this way I was able to discover many unsuspected cases.

During the month of March an outbreak of measles occurred among the children of the Hadley Schools, necessitating closure for three weeks, ending April 13th.

On November 23rd a case of some interest arose in the District—interesting inasmuch as it caused considerable discussion as to the respective duties of an Urban Sanitary Authority and of a Board of Guardians, each performing their respective offices in the same District. The case was that of a lad who, whilst passing through East Barnet with his employer, a travelling hawker, was seized with Scarlet Fever and laid up in the van. The case was notified in the usual way, and after some delay I was able to procure his admission into the Isolation Hospital at Enfield. As the patient was precluded by the illness from earning his livelihood and had no means, he was practically a pauper. I therefore communicated with the Relieving Officer, according to a resolution to that effect passed by the Council on August 11th, but the Relieving Officer declined to interfere, and was supported in his action by the Guardians. Communications were then sent by the Chairman of the Council to the Local Government Board, complaining of the Relieving Officer. The following reply was received, and being an important document I reproduce it in extenso :

“ DEAR SIR,—I am directed by the Local Government Board to advert to your letter of the 11th ult. on the subject of the treatment of certain cases of infectious disease arising in the East Barnet Valley Urban District, with regard to the respective duties and responsibilities of the Guardians of the Barnet Union and the East Barnet

Valley Urban District Council, relative to the treatment of such cases. I am directed to state that where a person suffering from illness, including infectious disease, is destitute, it is the duty of the Guardians, or in the interval between their meetings, of the Relieving Officer, to give such relief as the case may require, and, if necessary, to give an order for the admission of the patient to a hospital in which he can be properly treated. When, however, the removal of a patient to a hospital is only required for purposes of isolation and the person to be removed is not destitute the Guardians have no duty in the case, and the necessary provision should be made by the District Council. The test of the Guardians' duty in the matter is the destitution of the patient, and this will not necessarily depend upon his being in the actual receipt of poor relief but may consist in his being unable to obtain, at his own cost, the requisite medical attendance, nursing, and accommodation. Where it devolves upon the Guardians to deal with cases of infectious disease which require hospital accommodation, they are not restricted to providing for the treatment of such cases in the Workhouse. On the contrary the Board think that the hospital accommodation for infectious cases required in any locality should be provided by the District Council, who should agree with the Guardians to receive upon terms their pauper cases. I am directed to add that the District Council would have no power to recover the expenses from the Guardians except in the case of patients sent

into the hospital on the order of the Guardians or their duly authorised officers.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. N. DALTON,

Assistant Secretary."

From the above letter it is clear that it is the duty of the Guardians to look after the health of any person who is sick and destitute, whilst it is equally clear that it is the duty of the Sanitary Authority to look after the health of the community, and this can only be done by providing an Isolation Hospital, to which persons suffering from infectious disease, and therefore dangerous to the community, can be removed when required.

The provision of means of isolation seems to be as remote as ever. In the early part of the year a petition was signed and sent to the Herts County Council in accordance with the provisions of the Isolation Hospitals Act, praying for an inquiry into the necessity of providing an Isolation Hospital for the District, but nothing came of it.

My views concerning the kind of hospital that would meet the requirements of the District have already been repeatedly expressed in previous reports, nevertheless I again give them, feeling assured that they accurately describe the kind of accommodation that would meet the requirements of our District.

A brick building large enough to afford accommodation to the administrative department and about five or six patients would suffice, and in time of need, temporary buildings could easily be put up as required, in close proximity to it.

Moreover, this is the kind of provision that is recommended by the Local Government Board in their circular on the subject issued in 1895. It is there stated that for large villages, or for groups of villages, a small building will suffice; or the requisite accommodation for (say) four cases of infectious disease in a village, away at a time, be got in a fairly isolated and otherwise suitable four-room or six-room cottage, which has been acquired by the Authority. This is the kind of accommodation I have frequently recommended. But as the growth of the district may be said to put it into the class Town, it would be well to adopt the advice given under this heading, which is to the effect that permanent provision should be made to consist of not less than four rooms in two separate pairs, each pair to receive the sufferers from one infectious disease, men and women of course separately. For a town the hospital provision ought to consist of wards in one or more permanent buildings, with space enough for the erection of other wards, temporary or permanent.

Considerations of ultimate economy make it wise to have permanent buildings sufficient for somewhat more

than the average necessities of the place, so that recourse to temporary extension may less often be necessary. In any case, it is well to make the administrative offices somewhat in excess of the wants of the permanent wards; because thus, at little additional cost, they will be ready to serve when occasion comes for the wants of temporary extensions.

The advantages of an Isolation Hospital would be still further enhanced by the erection of a Disinfection Chamber. At present all articles requiring disinfection must be burnt or taken to Hornsey, where, by the kindness of the Officials, they are disinfected, provided they are not too busy on their own special work. This method is necessarily very unsatisfactory, for it entails a great deal of trouble and inconvenience, and expense too, and being purely an act of grace, is liable to cease at any moment.

Several cases happened during the year which illustrated the necessity for some means of Isolation, one in particular being that of a family where eight children were all ill at the same time, with Scarlet Fever. The cottage in which they lived was in a poor condition, and practically consisted of two rooms, one being the bedroom in which the eight children and their mother remained nearly the whole period of the illness. Fortunately the type of the disease was very mild, otherwise the foul conditions engendered by the crowding together of so

many sick persons in one room, might have caused the disease to become sufficiently malignant to have had disastrous results.

TABLE OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1896, IN THE EAST BARNET VALLEY URBAN DISTRICT. CLASSIFIED
ACCORDING TO DISEASES, AGES AND LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.						MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	FEVERS.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
								Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever	Phtthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneu- monia & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All other Diseases	TOTAL.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
East Barnet	73	17	7	5	3	24	17	1	1</

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, DURING THE YEAR 1896, IN THE EAST BARNET VALLEY URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT. CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO DISEASES, AGES AND LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.										NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED from their Homes in the several Localities for treatment in Isolation Hospital.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				
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East Barnet ...	5126	9600	165	{ Under 5. 5 upwards.	28 ... 70 6	6	1

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District—Yes. Since when?—January 1st, 1890. Besides the above Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated—Nowhere—there is not one.

TABLE OF MORTALITY IN EAST BARNET URBAN DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 1896.

Name of Disease.	Deaths (among all classes) registered as having occurred in the District.				
	Total Deaths registered as above.				
	Aged under 5 yrs.		5 yrs. & upwards.		
Measles - - -	4	-	1		
Scarlatina - - -	—	-	—		
Diphtheria - - -	1	-	2		
Whooping Cough - - -	2	-	—		
Croup - - -	1	-	—		
Typhoid Fever - - -	—	-	1		
Influenza - - -	1	-	1		
Diarrhoea and Dysentery - - -	5	-	—		
Rheumatic Fever - - -	—	-	2		
Puerperal Fever - - -	—	-	1		
Phthisis - - -	—	-	6		
Bronchitis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy	8	-	7		
Heart Disease - - -	1	-	7		
Cancer and Malignant Disease	—	-	8		
Disease of Nervous System -	3	-	6		
Alcoholism - - -	—	-	3		
Atrophy and Debility - - -	3	-	—		
Diabetes - - -	—	-	3		
Premature Birth - - -	3	-	—		
Old Age - - -	—	-	4		
Injuries - - -	—	-	2		
Other Causes - - -	5	-	22		

